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12 Attorneys for Defendant, City of Simi Valley, a public entity

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 BRUCE BOYER, an individual, ) Case No.  
19 Plaintiff, )  
20 vs. )  
21 )  
22 CITY OF SIMI VALLEY, and DOES 1 )  
23 through 10, inclusive, )  
24 Defendant. )  
25 )  
NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF  
ACTION  
[28 U.S.C. § 1441 (b) & (c)  
(Federal Question); 28 U.S.C. § 1446]

27 TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT:  
28 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant, City of Simi Valley, a public

1 entity, hereby removes to the United States District Court, Central District of  
2 California the state court action described below.

3 1. On or about December 17, 2018, a state court action was commenced  
4 in the County of Ventura Superior Court, entitled Bruce Boyer v. City of Simi  
5 Valley, bearing the case number 56-2016-00521880-CU-CR-VTA. Attached  
6 hereto as Exhibit "A" is a copy of the original Complaint that was filed in this  
7 action.

8 2. Defendant City of Simi Valley was first served with this action on  
9 December 28, 2018.

10 3. To the knowledge of this defendant, no other valid defendant has been  
11 served.

12 4. This action is a civil action of which the United States District Court  
13 has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and is one which may be  
14 removed to the United States District Court by the defendant pursuant to the  
15 provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1441 (c), in that it involves claims for violations of 42  
16 U.S.C. § 1983, the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States  
17 Constitution, the California Constitution, and the civil rights laws of the State of  
18 California.

19 5. All named defendants who have been served with the Summons and  
20 Complaint in this action join in this Notice of Removal.

21

22 DATED: January 24, 2019 CARPENTER, ROTHANS & DUMONT LLP

23

24 /s/ Justin Reade Sarno

25

By: \_\_\_\_\_

26

Steven J. Rothans

27

Jill Williams

28

Justin Reade Sarno

Attorneys for Defendant,  
City of Simi Valley, a public entity

# **Exhibit “A”**

SL. MONS  
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**  
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):  
CITY OF SIMI VALLEY, and DOES 1 through 10,  
inclusive

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:**

(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):  
BRUCE BOYER, an individual

SUM-100  
For circulation only  
VENTURA COUNTY  
FILED  
DEC 17 2018

MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy  
MARIA MARTINEZ

**NOTICE!** You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

(AVISO) Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda deschar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:  
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

56-2018-00521880-CU-CR-VTA

Ventura County Superior Court  
800 S. Victoria Avenue

Ventura, California 93009

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

George M. Wallace, WALLACE BROWN & SCHWARTZ  
215 North Marengo Ave., 3rd Floor  
Pasadena, California 91101

(626) 844-6777

Michael D Planet

DATE:  
(Fecha) DEC 17 2018

Clerk, by  
(Secretario) \_\_\_\_\_

, Deputy  
(Adjunto) \_\_\_\_\_

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

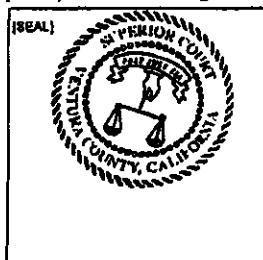
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

MARIA MARTINEZ

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1.  as an individual defendant.
2.  as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
3.  on behalf of (specify):  
under:  CCP 416.10 (corporation)  
 CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)  
 CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)  
 other (specify):
4.  by personal delivery on (date):

CCP 416.60 (minor)  
 CCP 416.70 (conservatee)  
 CCP 416.90 (authorized person)



## SUMMONS

1 George M. Wallace -- Cal. Bar No. 101472  
2 WALLACE, BROWN & SCHWARTZ  
3 215 North Marengo Avenue  
4 Third Floor  
5 Pasadena, California 91101-1504  
(626) 844-6777; Fax (626) 795-0353

VENTURA  
SUPERIOR COURT  
FILED

DEC 17 2018

MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy  
MARIA MARTINEZ

6 Attorney for Plaintiff BRUCE BOYER

7  
8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
9 FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

10  
11 BRUCE BOYER, an individual, } Case No.: 56-2018-00521880-CU-CR-VTA  
12 Plaintiff, }  
13 vs. } COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE  
14 CITY OF SIMI VALLEY, and DOES 1 } AND DECLARATORY RELIEF  
15 through 10, inclusive, }  
16 Defendant. }  
17

By Fay

18 Comes now Plaintiff BRUCE BOYER, an individual, and for claims  
19 against defendants, and each of them, alleges as follows:

20  
21 *Introductory and General Allegations*

22 1. Plaintiff BRUCE BOYER (referred to in this Complaint as  
23 "plaintiff" or "Boyer") is an individual residing in Los Angeles County,  
24 California. As described below, plaintiff has undertaken to exercise his rights of  
25 free speech and expression under the First Amendment of the United States

ORIGINAL

Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief - 1

1 Constitution and under the Constitution of the State of California, and to engage  
2 in other lawful activity, within the City of Simi Valley, and has been subjected to  
3 unlawful interference with his constitutional and civil rights by the actions,  
4 policies, and practices of the City of Simi Valley.

5       2. Defendant CITY OF SIMI VALLEY (referred to in this Complaint  
6 as "Simi Valley" or "the City") is a municipality chartered and existing under the  
7 laws of the State of California and is a political subdivision of the State of  
8 California located within the County of Ventura.

9       3. The true names and identities of defendants DOEs 1 through 10,  
10 inclusive, are unknown to plaintiff, which therefore sues them under those  
11 fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each fictitiously named  
12 defendant is in some manner jointly or severally legally liable with the named  
13 defendant as to the causes of action alleged in this Complaint. Plaintiff will  
14 amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the fictitiously  
15 named defendants if and when such become known to plaintiff.

16       4. The field of traffic control, including vehicular parking regulations,  
17 is preempted by state law. Municipalities and other local authorities, such as the  
18 City of Simi Valley, may only regulate traffic and parking to the extent the  
19 Legislature grants them the ability or authority to do so. The State's preemption  
20 of the field is codified in Vehicle Code §21: "Except as otherwise expressly  
21 provided, the provisions of this code are applicable and uniform throughout the  
22 state and in all counties and municipalities therein, and no local authority shall  
23 enact or enforce any ordinance on the matters covered by this code unless  
24 expressly authorized therein."

25

1       5.   Vehicle Code §22507 provides for some local authority over  
2 regulation of parking. Currently, and at all times relevant to this action, Vehicle  
3 Code §22507 provides, in relevant part:

4           (a) Local authorities may, by ordinance or resolution, prohibit  
5 or restrict the stopping, parking, or standing of vehicles, including,  
6 but not limited to, vehicles that are six feet or more in height  
7 (including any load thereon) within 100 feet of any intersection, on  
8 certain streets or highways, or portions thereof, during all or certain  
9 hours of the day. ... With the exception of alleys, the ordinance or  
10 resolution shall not apply until signs or markings giving adequate  
11 notice thereof have been placed....

12 Subsequent to the enactment of Vehicle Code §22507, the Legislature has enacted  
13 additional statutes providing express local authority to regulate the parking of  
14 certain specified types of vehicles, not otherwise encompassed in the grant of  
15 authority in section 22507. Among these, for example, are Vehicle Code  
16 §22503.5, authorizing restrictions on the parking of two-wheeled or three-  
17 wheeled motor vehicles; Vehicle Code §22507.5, authorizing restrictions on  
18 overnight parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts; and statutes  
19 governing "mobile billboard advertising displays," as described further below. In  
20 2004, the Assembly passed a bill [AB1798] that would have granted local  
21 authority to prohibit or restrict parking of vehicles, other than motor vehicles, on  
22 designated streets and highways during all or portions of the day, but those  
23 portions of the bill were eliminated in the Senate and therefore never passed the  
24 Legislature.

25

1       6. Beginning in 2010, the State of California has enacted a series of  
2 statutes and amendments thereto purporting to regulate a class of vehicle  
3 designated as “mobile billboard advertising displays” and, in particular,  
4 purporting to grant authority to municipalities such as the City of Simi Valley to  
5 adopt and enforce certain local ordinances to permit the seizure and impound of a  
6 vehicle that is determined to be a “mobile billboard advertising display.” The  
7 term “mobile billboard advertising display” is defined in Vehicle Code §395.5,  
8 which provides as follows:

9                   A 'mobile billboard advertising display' means an advertising  
10                  display that is attached to a mobile, nonmotorized vehicle, device, or  
11                  bicycle, that carries, pulls, or transports a sign or billboard, and is for  
12                  the primary purpose of advertising.

13       7. The authority of a municipality, such as the City of Simi Valley, to  
14 adopt ordinances concerning “mobile billboard advertising displays” is codified  
15 in Vehicle Code §21100, subdivision (m), the relevant portions of which provide  
16 as follows:

17 Local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by  
18 ordinance or resolution regarding ... the following matters:

1 mobile billboard advertising display shall be moved after a specified  
2 time period.

3 8. A municipality, acting through a peace officer or other traffic  
4 enforcement authority, is only permitted to remove or impound a vehicle to the  
5 extent expressly authorized by the Vehicle Code. That limitation is codified in  
6 Vehicle Code §22650, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

7 It is unlawful for any peace officer or any unauthorized person  
8 to remove any unattended vehicle from a highway to a garage or to  
9 any other place, except as provided in this code.

10 (a) Those law enforcement and other agencies identified in  
11 this chapter as having the authority to remove vehicles shall also  
12 have the authority to provide hearings in compliance with the  
13 provisions of Section 22852. During these hearings the storing  
14 agency shall have the burden of establishing the authority for, and  
15 the validity of, the removal.

16 9. The conditions under which a “mobile billboard advertising display”  
17 may be removed by a municipal authority, such as the City of Simi Valley, are  
18 codified in Vehicle Code §22651, subdivision (v), the relevant portions of which  
19 provide as follows:

20 A peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with  
21 Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, or a regularly  
22 employed and salaried employee, who is engaged in directing traffic  
23 or enforcing parking laws and regulations, of a city, county, or  
24 jurisdiction of a state agency in which a vehicle is located, may

1 remove a vehicle located within the territorial limits in which the  
2 officer or employee may act, under the following circumstances:

3 \* \* \*

4 (v) (1) When a vehicle is a mobile billboard advertising  
5 display, as defined in Section 395.5, and is parked or left standing in  
6 violation of a local resolution or ordinance adopted pursuant to  
7 subdivision (m) of Section 21100, if the registered owner of the  
8 vehicle was previously issued a warning citation for the same  
9 offense, pursuant to paragraph (2).

10 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 22507, a  
11 city or county, in lieu of posting signs noticing a local ordinance  
12 prohibiting mobile billboard advertising displays adopted pursuant to  
13 subdivision (m) of Section 21100, may provide notice by issuing a  
14 warning citation advising the registered owner of the vehicle that he  
15 or she may be subject to penalties upon a subsequent violation of the  
16 ordinance, that may include the removal of the vehicle as provided in  
17 paragraph (1). A city or county is not required to provide further  
18 notice for a subsequent violation prior to the enforcement of  
19 penalties for a violation of the ordinance.

20 10. Whenever any vehicle has been removed or impounded by a  
21 municipal authority, such as the City of Simi Valley, that authority is required by  
22 law to provide a post-impound hearing to the vehicle owner at which the  
23 municipality bears the burden "of establishing the authority for, and the validity  
24 of, the removal", pursuant to Vehicle Code §22650, subdivision (a). The right to a  
25

1 post-impound hearing, and the procedures to be followed in such hearings, are  
2 specified in Vehicle Code §22852, which provides as follows:

3 (a) Whenever an authorized member of a public agency  
4 directs the storage of a vehicle, as permitted by this chapter, or upon  
5 the storage of a vehicle as permitted under this section (except as  
6 provided in subdivision (f) or (g)), the agency or person directing the  
7 storage shall provide the vehicle's registered and legal owners of  
8 record, or their agents, with the opportunity for a poststorage hearing  
9 to determine the validity of the storage.

10 (b) A notice of the storage shall be mailed or personally  
11 delivered to the registered and legal owners within 48 hours,  
12 excluding weekends and holidays, and shall include all of the  
13 following information:

14 (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the agency  
15 providing the notice.

16 (2) The location of the place of storage and description of  
17 the vehicle, which shall include, if available, the name or make, the  
18 manufacturer, the license plate number, and the mileage.

19 (3) The authority and purpose for the removal of the  
20 vehicle.

21 (4) A statement that, in order to receive their poststorage  
22 hearing, the owners, or their agents, shall request the hearing in  
23 person, writing, or by telephone within 10 days of the date appearing  
24 on the notice.

6 (d) Failure of either the registered or legal owner, or his or  
7 her agent, to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall satisfy the  
8 poststorage hearing requirement.

13 (f) This section does not apply to vehicles abated under the  
14 Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program pursuant to Sections 22660  
15 to 22668, inclusive, and Section 22710, or to vehicles impounded for  
16 investigation pursuant to Section 22655, or to vehicles removed from  
17 private property pursuant to Section 22658.

18 (g) This section does not apply to abandoned vehicles  
19 removed pursuant to Section 22669 that are determined by the public  
20 agency to have an estimated value of five hundred dollars (\$500) or  
21 less.

22        11. The City of Simi Valley has adopted an ordinance, codified as Simi  
23 Valley Municipal Code title 4, Chapter 9, Article 6, purporting to regulate  
24 "mobile billboard advertising." That Article, as adopted in 2016 and amended in  
25 part in 2018, currently provides as follows:

## **Article 6. - Mobile Billboard Advertising Displays**

**§4-9.601 - The parking of mobile billboard advertising displays is unlawful.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to park or leave standing a mobile billboard advertising display on any public street, alley or public lands in the City.

**§4-9.602 - Definition of mobile billboard advertising**  
**display.**

For purposes of this Chapter, 'mobile billboard advertising display' has the meaning provided by Section 395.5 of the California Vehicle Code which states:

395.5. A “mobile billboard advertising display” means an advertising display that is attached to a mobile, nonmotorized vehicle, device, or bicycle, that carries, pulls, or transports a sign or billboard, and is for the primary purpose of advertising.

For purposes of this Chapter, this definition shall not include a motor vehicle.

**§4-9.603 - Removal of mobile billboard advertising displays authorized.**

Pursuant to Section 22651, Subdivision (v), of the California Vehicle Code, any peace officer, or any regularly employed and salaried employee of the City, who is engaged in directing traffic or enforcing parking laws and regulations may remove a mobile billboard advertising display, and/or anything that the mobile

1       billboard advertising display is attached to including a motor vehicle,  
2       found upon any public street, alley or any public lands in the City  
3       when either [subsection] (a) or (b) below is true:

4               (a) The following three (3) elements must be satisfied:  
5                       (1) The mobile billboard advertising display is  
6                        parked or left standing in violation of this Code; and  
7                       (2) The registered owner of the mobile billboard  
8                        advertising display was previously issued a warning  
9                        citation for the same offense; and  
10                      (3) The warning citation was issued to a first-time  
11                       offender at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the  
12                       removal of the mobile billboard advertising display and  
13                       the warning citation advised the registered owner of the  
14                       mobile billboard advertising display that he or she may  
15                       be subject to penalties upon a subsequent violation that  
16                       may include the removal of the mobile billboard  
17                       advertising display. Notice of the warning citation may  
18                       be provided by personal service, by attaching the  
19                       citation to the mobile billboard advertising display in a  
20                       conspicuous place so as to be easily observed, or by any  
21                       other manner permitted by law.

22               Pursuant to Section 22651(v)(2) of the California Vehicle  
23               Code, the City is not required to provide further notice for any  
24               subsequent violation prior to enforcement.

(b) The mobile billboard advertising display is parked or left standing in violation of this Code, and neither the mobile billboard display nor anything the mobile billboard display may be attached to are vehicles required to be registered pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 4000 or any other section of the California Vehicle Code. In such case, no notice is required and the mobile billboard display and anything the mobile billboard display is attached to may be immediately removed. Further, no post-storage impound hearing, including the hearing as set forth in Section 4-9.604, shall apply to such mobile billboard display and anything the mobile billboard display may be attached to. Such items shall be processed by the Police Department pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 13 of this Code (Section 2-13.01 et seq.).

15       12. The City of Simi Valley has also adopted an ordinance, codified as  
16 section 4-9.402 in Simi Valley Municipal Code title 4, Chapter 9, Article 4,  
17 purporting to prohibit the parking of any trailer not attached to a motor vehicle, at  
18 any time, on any street or highway within the City. That ordinance, as adopted in  
19 2000 and amended in part in 2006, currently provides as follows:

20                   **4-9.402 - Parking of oversized vehicles, trailers and fifth**  
21                   **wheels.**

(a) No person shall park or leave standing any oversized vehicle, as further defined herein, upon any public street or highway in the City. For the purpose of this section, the term "oversized vehicle" shall mean any vehicle, as defined by Section 670 of the

1       Vehicle Code, or combination of vehicles, which exceeds twenty-  
2       three (23') feet in length, seven (7') feet in width, or eight (8') feet in  
3       height, exclusive of projecting lights or devices allowed by Section  
4       35109 or 35110 of the Vehicle Code, as may be amended.

5           (b) No person shall park or leave standing any trailer, as  
6       defined in Section 630 of the Vehicle Code, or fifth wheel travel  
7       trailer, as defined by Section 324 of the Vehicle Code, regardless of  
8       length or width, when it has been detached from a motor vehicle,  
9       upon any public street or highway in the City.

10      Vehicle Code §630 defines a “trailer” in relevant part as “a vehicle designed for  
11     carrying persons or property on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor  
12     vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon any other vehicle.”

13      13. The City of Simi Valley has adopted an ordinance, codified as  
14     section 4-9.701 in Simi Valley Municipal Code title 4, Chapter 9, Article 7,  
15     purporting to create exemptions from the application of other traffic ordinances,  
16     including the City’s prohibition on parking “mobile billboard advertising  
17     displays” and the City’s prohibition on parking trailers when not attached to a  
18     motor vehicle. That ordinance provides as follows:

19           **4-9.701 - Parking exemption for authorized emergency  
20            vehicles and maintenance vehicles.**

21      The provisions of this Chapter 9 regulating the operation,  
22     parking and standing of vehicles shall not apply to Authorized  
23     Emergency Vehicles while on duty or vehicles authorized by the  
24     City Engineer or such other City official as may be authorized by the  
25

1       City Manager for construction, repair or maintenance of public or  
2       private property.

3  
4       14. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that  
5       pursuant to section 4-9.701, the City has authorized or permitted public and  
6       private parties to park sign boards, arrow boards, illuminated message boards, and  
7       other vehicles that are otherwise prohibited by the City's ordinances governing  
8       "mobile billboard advertising displays". The exemption thereby operates as a  
9       content-based restriction on speech and expression, based upon a preference for  
10      the speech of some persons and entities over others.

11       15. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that, on its face but also  
12      particularly when applied in conjunction with the purported exemption created by  
13      section 4-9.701, the City's purported citywide ban on the parking of all detached  
14      trailers as adopted and as enforced exceeds the City's authority to regulate  
15      parking as granted by the Legislature in Vehicle Code §22507 and related  
16      statutes. By prohibiting the parking of trailers of any kind anywhere and at any  
17      time within the municipal boundaries when detached from a motor vehicle, the  
18      City has effectively banned an entire class of lawful vehicles, including vehicles  
19      registered and licensed by the State of California or other jurisdictions, and lawful  
20      for use throughout the State, from being owned, used, or operated in an otherwise  
21      usual and lawful fashion within the City of Simi Valley, in a manner that subverts  
22      the State's supremacy in matters of vehicle regulation and that interferes with  
23      fundamental rights including without limitation the right of free movement, and  
24      the right to reasonable use of one's property. To the extent that the ordinance  
25

1 exceeds the authority granted by the Legislature, it is void and unenforceable, and  
2 an abuse of the City's authority and discretion.

3       16. Plaintiff has utilized, and continues to utilize, a variety of different  
4 vehicles, including trailers attached to and detached from motor vehicles, and  
5 other non-motorized vehicles that may qualify as "mobile billboard advertising  
6 displays" within the City of Simi Valley for the purposes of speech and  
7 expression. The vehicles have borne a variety of messages, signage, and  
8 advertising on a variety of subjects. Some of the messages conveyed by the  
9 plaintiff's vehicles have been commercial, but the majority have been used for  
10 purposes of topical and political expression. The vehicles, when they are parked  
11 within the City of Simi Valley, have been parked in locations where parking of  
12 most any other vehicle is permitted, at times and on days when parking of  
13 vehicles generally is legal, and in compliance with applicable statutes and  
14 ordinances limiting the durations for which vehicles generally may be parked.  
15 Only the City's purported prohibitions on the parking of "mobile billboard  
16 advertising displays" and/or of trailers detached from a motor vehicle, raise any  
17 sort of impediment to the parking of plaintiff's speech-bearing vehicles within the  
18 City.

19       17. On repeated occasions over the past several years, and continuing to  
20 the present, the defendant City has, on an ongoing and recurring basis, impounded  
21 and removed, or threatened to impound and remove, plaintiff's vehicles and  
22 alleged mobile billboard displays from locations throughout the City of Simi  
23 Valley. On each occasion, the removed vehicle has been parked at a location and  
24 at a time of day when parking of any other vehicle was entirely lawful, and the  
25 seizure was made on the purported authority of the Simi Valley ordinances cited

1 above, purporting to ban “mobile billboard advertising displays” and trailers  
2 detached from motor vehicles. As of the date of this Complaint, dozens of  
3 vehicles owned by plaintiff have been seized and impounded by the City. During  
4 that same period, many vehicles identical or readily comparable in form and  
5 function to plaintiff’s vehicles have been left unmolested, either because plaintiff  
6 in particular has been targeted by the City or, in some cases, on the basis of the  
7 purported exemption of those other vehicles from the ordinances that have been  
8 applied against plaintiff.

9       18. As to each of plaintiff's vehicles and other property, upon learning of  
10 the seizure and impound, plaintiff has made a request for a post-impound hearing  
11 pursuant to Vehicle Code §22852. As a general matter, the defendant City has  
12 refused to provide any such hearing. When hearings have been provided, they  
13 have not comported with the requirements of due process. In consequence,  
14 plaintiff's vehicles have been permanently lost to plaintiff, as a result of their  
15 being sold in a lien sale by the City or its agents, or otherwise disposed of by the  
16 City.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION—**

## FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF

20 | SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS, FREE SPEECH |

19. Plaintiff refers to the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 18,  
inclusive, of this Complaint, and reincorporates those allegations by this reference  
as though set forth in full at this point.

24        20. The claims alleged in this Complaint arise under the First and  
25 Fourteenth Amendments to, and other provisions of, the United States

1 Constitution; the Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. §1983; the California  
2 Constitution; and the civil rights laws of the State of California. The Due Process  
3 Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects  
4 plaintiff's right to pursue a legitimate business or occupation, and to make  
5 reasonable use of his property, subject only to regulations that are rationally  
6 related to a legitimate government purpose. The First Amendment of the United  
7 States Constitution protects plaintiff's right to engage in speech and  
8 communications, whether in a commercial, political or personal context, without  
9 regard to the specific content of that speech activity, and without regard to  
10 plaintiff's identity as the speaker, subject only to narrowly drawn restrictions  
11 based upon a compelling state interest. The First Amendment operates to prohibit  
12 discrimination, by government actors, between favored and disfavored speakers,  
13 or between favored and disfavored messages or content. Further, the United  
14 States Constitution and the California Constitution protect and preserve plaintiff's  
15 right not to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

16       21. The ordinances of the City of Simi Valley purporting to regulate  
17 "mobile billboard advertising displays" and the use of trailers detached from  
18 motor vehicles, particularly in combination with the City's exemption of its own  
19 vehicles and certain other vehicles of private owners selected and preferred by the  
20 City, operate to discriminate on their face between favored and disfavored  
21 speakers, and between favored and disfavored subject matter and points of view,  
22 by permitting the activity described as "mobile billboard advertising" to be  
23 engaged in on certain subjects or by certain speakers (e.g., the City itself, its  
24 agencies, and private parties engaged in construction work on public and private  
25 premises), but not by others, e.g., by plaintiff. The ordinances are facially

1 unconstitutional under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution,  
2 and the independent protections of the California Constitution, Article 1, §2(a)  
3 [“A law may not restrain or abridge liberty of speech or press.”] Additionally,  
4 plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the City of Simi  
5 Valley has adopted a policy pursuant to which it is engaged in discriminatory  
6 enforcement by targeting, seizing and impounding plaintiff’s vehicles while not  
7 acting to similarly enforce its ordinance against other, similarly situated private  
8 vehicle owners.

9       22. The City of Simi Valley has adopted a policy and practice, at least in  
10 cases involving plaintiff Boyer, of refusing to provide the post-impound hearing  
11 required by statute (Vehicle Code §22852) and by the Due Process provisions of  
12 the United States Constitution and the California Constitution.

13       23. An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between plaintiff  
14 and defendants, and each of them, in that plaintiff contends, and each defendant  
15 denies, that the policies, practices, and actions of the City of Simi Valley in  
16 regard to the adoption and purported enforcement of its ordinances concerning  
17 “mobile billboard advertising” and concerning trailers detached from motor  
18 vehicles are unconstitutional, and not within the City’s power or authority under  
19 California law.

20       24. Plaintiff desires a judicial determination of the respective rights and  
21 duties of plaintiff and defendants, and each of them, with respect to the issues  
22 framed in this action. A declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time in  
23 order that plaintiff may ascertain its rights and duties with respect to using its  
24 vehicles within the City of Simi Valley, as plaintiff desires to do.

25

1       25. Further, unless the City of Simi Valley is enjoined from committing  
2 the above-described Constitutional violations, and obliged to restore to plaintiff  
3 all of plaintiff's property seized pursuant to the purported authority of that  
4 defendant's ordinances, plaintiff and all those similarly situated will continue to  
5 suffer great and irreparable harm.

## **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION —**

**FOR DAMAGES PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983**

9       26. Plaintiff refers to and reincorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1  
10 through 25, inclusive, of this Complaint, as though set forth in full at this point.

11       27. The actions of the defendant City of Simi Valley, and particularly the  
12 City's seizure and impound of the plaintiff's property and interference with  
13 plaintiff's lawful business and expressive activities, were the product of policies  
14 or customs adopted by the City, and constitute violations of the plaintiff's  
15 Constitutional rights, under color of law. As a direct and proximate result of the  
16 City's unconstitutional and unlawful actions, plaintiff has sustained damages in  
17 an amount not yet fully determined, but within the unlimited jurisdiction of this  
18 Court.

20 WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray judgment as follows:

21 1. For entry of a judgment declaring the City of Simi Valley's  
22 ordinances purporting to regulate and prohibit "mobile billboard advertising" to  
23 be unconstitutional on its face, or as applied to plaintiff and others similarly  
24 situated, or both;

1       2. For preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction, all enjoining  
2 and prohibiting defendant, and its agents, employees and all persons acting under,  
3 in concert with, or for them from continuing to enforce its "mobile billboard  
4 advertising" ordinance, and in particular to prohibit further impound and seizure  
5 of plaintiff's utility trailers within the City of Simi Valley, and to require the  
6 return of all plaintiff's property in the City's possession or control, or restitution  
7 of the value of that property to plaintiff;

8       3. For compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;

9       4. For punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;

10      5. For an award of attorney's fees, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 and/or  
11 pursuant to California law;

12      6. For costs of suit incurred in this action; and

13      7. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

14

15

16 DATED: December 16, 2018

WALLACE, BROWN & SCHWARTZ

17  
18   
19 by GEORGE M. WALLACE  
20 Attorneys for Plaintiff BRUCE BOYER, an  
21 individual  
22  
23  
24  
25

**PROOF OF SERVICE**  
(1013a, 2015.5 C.C.P.)

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 500 South Grand Avenue, 19th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071.

On January 24, 2019, I served the foregoing document(s) described as:

## **NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION**

upon the interested parties in this action by placing the true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed to the following persons:

George M. Wallace, Esq.  
WALLACE, BROWN & SCHWARTZ  
215 North Marengo Avenue  
Third Floor  
Pasadena, California 91101-1504  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff, Bruce Boyer*

BY MAIL

X I deposited such envelope in the mail at Los Angeles, California. The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.

I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

Executed on January 24, 2019, at Los Angeles, California.

## FEDERAL

X I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the above is true and correct.

Gabrielle Duran

True and correct.  
Paula P.  
(Signature)